



CATALOGUE NO. 1307.1

EMBARGO: 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) FRI 30 MAY 1997

ECONOMIC INDICATORS, NEW SOUTH WALES MAY 1997

EMPLOYMENT

The seasonally adjusted number of employed persons in NSW was 2,826,200 in April 1997, an increase of 0.5% on the previous month. Nationally, employment rose by 0.4% over the same period.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The seasonally adjusted number of unemployed persons in NSW was 248,200 in April 1997, a rise of 3.1% on the previous month, but a fall of 1.0% on April 1996. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in April 1997 was 8.1% in NSW and 8.7% nationally.

NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS

In seasonally adjusted terms, new motor vehicle registrations in NSW increased by 1.8% from 20,232 in February 1997 to 20,602 in March 1997.

BUILDING APPROVALS

The seasonally adjusted number of new dwelling units approved in NSW in March 1997 was 4,191, a rise of 2.8% on the previous month and 25.2% on March 1996.

FINANCE

The value of housing finance commitments for owner occupation in NSW in March 1997 increased by 12.1% from February 1997 and 13.9% from March 1996.

NOTES

This publication provides information on a wide range of economic indicators which are the latest available at the time of publication. In a number of cases, figures appearing in this summary are preliminary and are subject to revision in subsequent issues.

For detailed explanatory notes and definitions for the items shown in this publication, readers are referred to the specific ABS publications.

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INQUIRIES:

- for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Bill Markham on Sydney (02) 9268 4376 or any ABS office.
- for information about other ABS statistics and services please contact Information Services on Sydney (02) 9268 4611 or any ABS office.

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NATIONAL ECONOMY

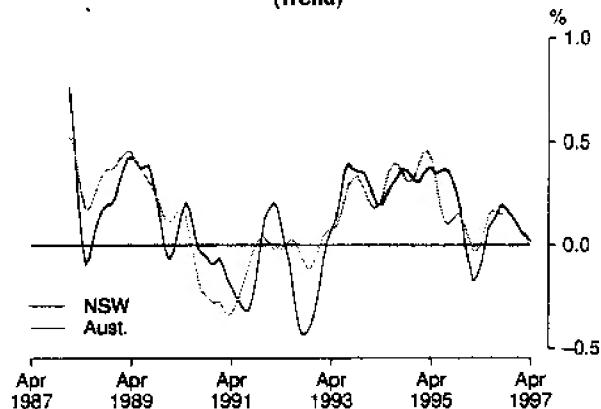
Indicator	Unit	Latest period	Change over prior period			Change over year
National accounts percentage change, average 1989-90 prices, (seasonally adjusted)—						
Gross non-farm product	%	Dec qtr 96		0.8		3.4
Gross domestic product	%	Dec qtr 96		0.8		3.7
<i>Figures for preceding periods</i>						
Indicator	Unit	Latest period	Latest figure	One period ago	Two periods ago	Three periods ago
Balance of payments—						Figure one year ago
Merchandise exports (seasonally adjusted)	\$m	Mar 97	6 333	6 950	6 573	6 539
Merchandise imports (seasonally adjusted)	\$m	Mar 97	-6 559	-6 888	-6 791	-6 419
Balance on merchandise trade (seasonally adjusted)	\$m	Mar 97	-226	62	-218	120
Balance on goods and services (seasonally adjusted)	\$m	Mar 97	-103	315	-75	301
Balance on current account	\$m	Dec 96	-876	-1 777	-2 346	-2 183
Balance on current account (seasonally adjusted)	\$m	Dec 96	-1 408	-1 893	-1 674	-1 636
Terms of trade for goods and services—						
Index (seasonally adjusted)	1989-90 =100	Dec qtr 96	98.6	97.9	97.9	96.0
Exchange Rates period average—						
SUS/SA		Mar 97	0.7888	0.7670	0.7791	0.7979
Trade weighted index of value SA	May 1970 =100	Mar 97	60.6	58.7	58.5	59.2
Indicator Lending Rate—						
Bank loans to large businesses (Source: Reserve Bank)	%	Mar 97	9.30	9.30	9.30	9.55
BALANCE ON GOODS AND SERVICES, AUSTRALIA SEASONALLY ADJUSTED (Monthly)						
			\$m - 1,000			
			- 500			
			- 0			
			500			
			1,000			
Mar 1987	Mar 1989	Mar 1991	Mar 1993	Mar 1995	Mar 1997	
GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT, AUSTRALIA SEASONALLY ADJUSTED (Average 1989-1990 prices, quarterly)						
			\$m 120,000			
			110,000			
			100,000			
			90,000			
			80,000			
Dec 1986	Dec 1988	Dec 1990	Dec 1992	Dec 1994	Dec 1996	

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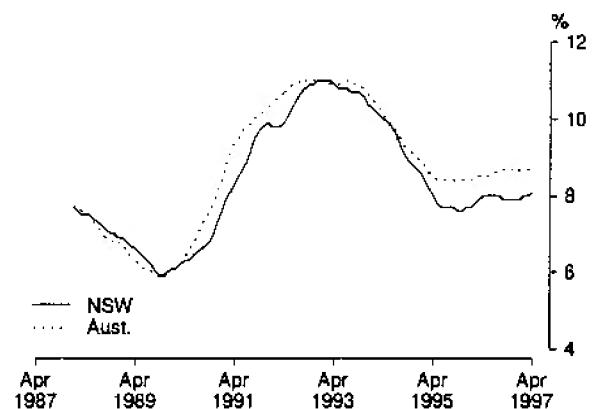
NEW SOUTH WALES IN RELATION TO OTHER STATES AND AUSTRALIA

Indicator	Latest period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	Aust.
Indicator		%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	Apr 97	8.1	9.1	9.5	9.7	7.4	10.8	8.7
Percentage change from previous year—								
Employed persons	Apr 97	1.9	1.5	1.8	-0.1	2.9	-3.7	1.6
Consumer price index: all groups	Mar qtr 97	1.3	1.5	1.6	0.8	0.9	1.5	1.3
Average weekly employee earnings: full-time adult ordinary time (trend estimates)	Feb 97	3.5	4.5	6.3	3.5	1.3	6.1	4.1
Retail turnover (trend estimates)	Mar 97	1.1	8.2	3.3	1.2	2.6	1.3	3.2
New motor vehicle registrations	Mar 97	5.9	3.2	-3.4	-6.2	-11.6	-0.3	0.3
Dwelling units approved	Mar 97	8.7	-12.0	17.6	24.3	-19.0	-24.2	2.5
Value of non-residential building approved	Mar 97	-24.8	-26.2	-8.4	-28.9	58.7	-18.9	-17.5
Value of all buildings approved	Mar 97	-3.9	-11.1	9.2	-11.9	10.1	-14.9	-2.6
Value of engineering construction work done	Dec qtr 96	-6.5	-1.8	7.9	11.8	3.9	-14.0	0.0
Room occupancy rate in licensed hotels and motels etc.	Dec qtr 96	1.3	0.7	-0.8	3.8	-3.1	-3.9	0.3
Actual private new capital expenditure	Dec qtr 96	13.3	27.4	42.5	22.2	-16.3	36.5	15.0

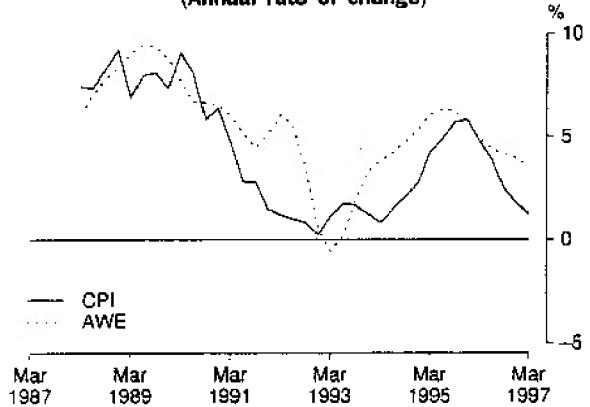
MONTHLY CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED
(Trend)



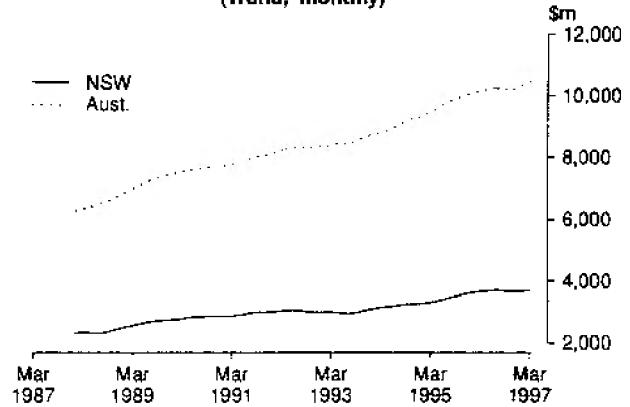
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
(Trend)



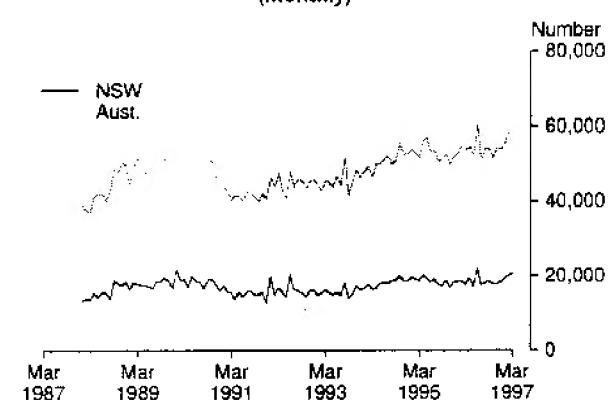
PRICES AND EARNINGS, NSW
(Annual rate of change)



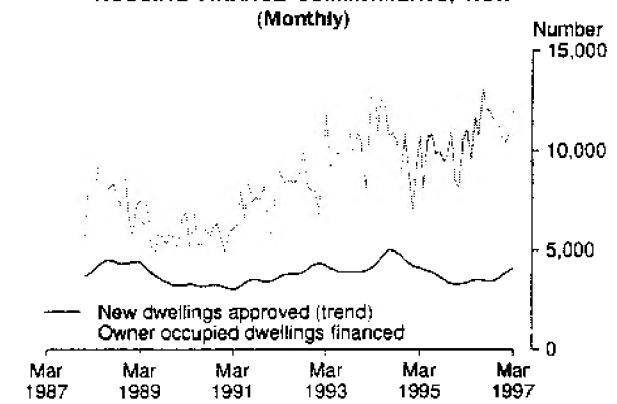
RETAIL TURNOVER
(Trend, monthly)



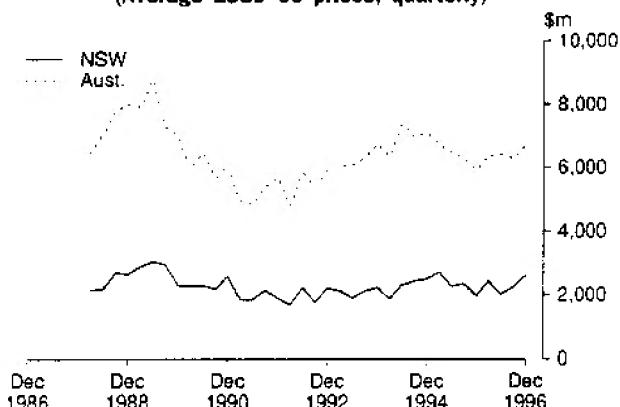
NEW MOTOR VEHICLES REGISTERED
(Monthly)



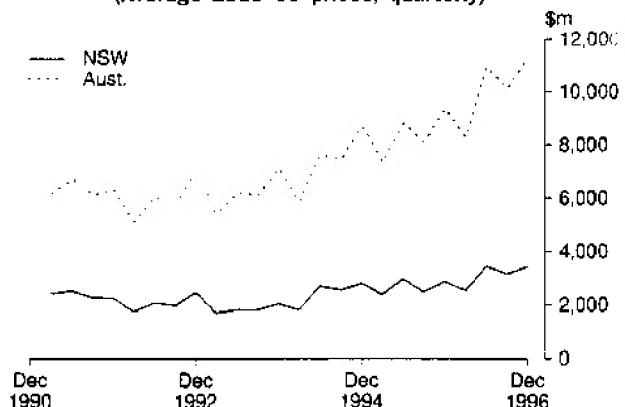
NEW DWELLINGS APPROVED AND HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS, NSW
(Monthly)



VALUE OF ALL BUILDINGS COMMENCED
(Average 1989-90 prices, quarterly)



PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE
(Average 1989-90 prices, quarterly)



Indicator	Unit	Latest period	New South Wales		Australia	
			Latest figure	Change from prior period	Change from same period	Latest figure
				%	%	%
Population						
Estimated resident population	'000	Sep qtr 96	6 208	0.29	1.24	18 349
Civilian population aged 15 years and over	'000	Apr 97	4 921	0.11	1.45	14 524
Labour Force						
Employed persons—full-time (original series)	'000	Apr 97	2 151	-0.2	1.1	6 244
—Total (original series)	'000	Apr 97	2 822	0.2	1.9	8 411
—Total (seasonally adjusted)	'000	Apr 97	2 826	0.5	1.9	8 421
Unemployed persons—(original series)	'000	Apr 97	244	-5.2	-1.0	800
—(seasonally adjusted)	'000	Apr 97	248	3.1	-1.0	802
Labour force (seasonally adjusted)	'000	Apr 97	3 074	0.7	1.7	9 223
Participation rate (seasonally adjusted)	%	Apr 97	62.5	0.6	0.2	63.5
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	%	Apr 97	8.1	2.4	-2.7	8.7
Job vacancies	'000	Feb 97	23	-10.3	-14.6	63
Weekly paid overtime per employee (a)	hours	Feb 97	7.2	-1.6	-1.6	7.1
Average Weekly Employee Earnings						
Full-time adult ordinary time earnings (trend estimates)	\$	Feb 97	720.70	0.5	3.5	692.90
All employees total earnings (trend estimates)	\$	Feb 97	601.20	-0.5	1.3	577.00
Industrial Disputes—Working days lost	'000	Jan 97	3.2	-79.3	22.6	23.3
Consumer Price Index, All Groups	1989-90 = 100	Mar qtr 97	120.6	0.2	1.3	120.5
Retail Turnover (trend estimates)	\$m	Mar 97	3 705	0.6	1.1	10 490
New Motor Vehicle Registrations (seasonally adjusted)	No.	Mar 97	20 602	1.8	16.7	59 345
Passenger vehicles (seasonally adjusted)	No.	Mar 97	17 616	1.8	17.4	49 766
Other motor vehicles (excl. motor cycles) (seas adj.)	No.	Mar 97	2 986	2.2	13.2	9 579
Production						
Clay bricks (seasonally adjusted) (b)	million	Mar 97	48	-6.5	-5.2	123
Electricity (seasonally adjusted)	million kWh	Mar 97	5 495	0.9	4.7	14 474
Gas (seasonally adjusted) (b)	terajoules	Mar 97	8 340	-9.4	7.4	51 683
Overseas Trade						
Imports	\$m	Mar 97	2 663	3.9	-3.1	5 989
Exports, Australian produce	\$m	Mar 97	1 486	10.5	-6.7	6 308
Tourism						
Overseas visitor short-term arrivals	'000	Feb 97	166	10.5	-3.5	408
Resident overseas short-term departures	'000	Feb 97	75	-9.2	5.1	180
Licensed hotels, motels etc. with facilities—						
Guest nights	'000	Dec qtr 96	5 699	3.3	2.2	16 749
Room occupancy rate	%	Dec qtr 96	60.9	3.0	1.3	59.9
Building						
Approvals—						
Dwelling units (seasonally adjusted)	No.	Mar 97	4 191	2.8	25.2	11 368
Value of new residential building (seasonally adjusted)	\$m	Mar 97	366	-20.8	13.6	1 144
Value of non-residential building	\$m	Mar 97	202	-16.2	-24.8	626
Value of all building	\$m	Mar 97	649	-10.3	-3.9	1 840
Commencements—						
New dwelling units	No.	Dec qtr 96	10 229	2.8	10.1	30 435
Value of new residential building (c)	\$m	Dec qtr 96	1 084	5.4	19.3	2 993
Value of non-residential building (c)	\$m	Dec qtr 96	1 274	29.4	52.1	3 169
Value of all building (c)	\$m	Dec qtr 96	2 630	16.6	33.1	6 761
Value of work done in period (c)	\$m	Dec qtr 96	2 350	-5.2	-3.1	6 926
Engineering Construction						
Private contractors—						
Value of work commenced	\$m	Dec qtr 96	475	-23.3	34.8	2 108
Value of work done	\$m	Dec qtr 96	569	-16.3	-15.7	2 253
Value of work yet to be done	\$m	Dec qtr 96	755	-7.2	-24.7	5 242
Value of work done by public sector	\$m	Dec qtr 96	640	3.2	3.6	1 509
Finance						
Housing finance for owner occupation—secured commitments to individuals by significant lenders	\$m	Mar 97	1 847	12.1	13.9	4 479
Personal finance commitments—significant lenders	\$m	Mar 97	990	5.5	13.7	2 949
Commercial finance commitments—significant lenders	\$m	Mar 97	5 475	-2.0	-0.3	11 478
Savings balances at end of month—						
All banks (d) (Source: Reserve Bank)	\$m	Feb 97	139 053	0.5	(e)	308 953
Building societies	\$m	Feb 97	4 119	0.7	12.3	9 370
Credit unions	\$m	Feb 97	6 380	0.3	8.2	14 548
Actual New Fixed Capital Expenditure (f)						
New buildings and structures	\$m	Dec qtr 96	3 473	7.8	13.3	11 430
Equipment, plant and machinery	\$m	Dec qtr 96	1 026	3.5	23.5	3 832
	\$m	Dec qtr 96	2 448	9.7	9.5	7 598

(a) Average weekly overtime hours for those employees who were paid for overtime. (b) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (c) Average of 1989-90 prices. (d) Average of weekly deposit balances. (e) Not available due to revisions only being done nationally. (f) By private enterprises.

(b) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (e) Not available due to revisions only being done nationally.



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